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JIMMY J. GIANATO
DIRECTOR

November 7, 2017 DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 17-183, Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum Between 3.7 and 24 GHz

Secretary Dortch,

The State of West Virginia desires to officially oppose permitting the sharing of the 6 GHz spectrum by unlicensed users, as we feel this is a real danger to the State of West Virginia's network due to potential interference issues that could arise. West Virginia currently utilizes several licensed 6 GHz spectrum microwave paths for our public safety microwave network, which supports our public safety radio system and is utilized by our 911 Centers and public safety agencies throughout the state.

The West Virginia network carries critical public safety communications and other state agency traffic on its private 6GHz microwave links. Loss of data due to interference in these microwave bands will impact public safety communications for police, fire, and emergency function in cities and counties across the state. Dependable communications in these bands not only enables our first responders to carry out their responsibilities to protect the public, but also ensures their health and safety. This network is relied upon for daily public safety operations as well as during times of disaster, and has been the only network to remain operational during many disasters throughout the state in the past.

Your consideration to West Virginia's objection to GN Docket No. 17-183, Expanding Flexible Use in Mid-Band Spectrum between 3.7 and 24 GHz, without protecting Public Safety Network is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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